

ADDENDUM

Through the kindness of Major Melvin A. Traylor, Associate Curator of Birds, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, I have been able to examine a further forty-one specimens of *T. sylvatica* from Africa, the specimens being mainly from Angola, Zambia, the Kasai, Congo, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. These specimens show that birds indistinguishable from *T. s. lepurana* range more or less throughout Ethiopian Africa, and *T. s. alleni* Mearns is without doubt a synonym. A single bird from Huila, in southern Angola, dated 6th November, 1954, is attributable to *T. s. arenaria*, showing that this race does in fact range into southern Angola as surmised. A second example from the Luachi R., in western Zambia, taken on 9th November, 1961, is also *T. s. arenaria*, which has already been recorded in the main paper on the southern African races of this hemipode as extending seasonally into Zambia.

A singleton from Isiolo, N.F.D., Kenya, is very like *T. s. arenaria* and probably represents a pale xeric form analogous in its main characters to the southern desertic race, which ranges throughout the Somali Arid District, the south-western Arabian peninsula, and, perhaps, the whole of the arid savanna belt lying immediately to the south of the Sahara. Mearns apparently confused similar pale birds to the Isiolo specimen with *T. s. lepurana* when naming *T. s. alleni*.

Seafowl observed on a voyage, Capetown to London, 23rd January to 8th February 1967

by CHARLES R. S. PITMAN

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GENERAL. The day to day details of this voyage, which provided an interesting comparison with the observations (*Bull. B.O.C.* 87 (3), March, 1967) made on this route in the reverse direction—London to Capetown—26th April to 12th May, 1966, are with the Royal Naval Bird Watching Society. Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, was the sole port of call. It was not the season for land migrants and the only land birds which came aboard were two Blackbirds, *Turdus merula* which were flying about the ship for about an hour (0800-0900 hrs.) on 7th February, when approaching and off the Isle of Wight.

Seafowl to a great extent were absent throughout the voyage with the exception of the day—and especially the evening—after leaving Capetown, when (some 370 miles north of Capetown) there was a steady southerly drift of two species of shearwaters and two species of petrels presumably to their southern or Antarctic breeding grounds; the day before (31st January), passing Dakar when Cory's (or Mediterranean) Shearwaters moving north and skuas were active in the p.m.; the day Dakar was passed (1st February) when three species of skua followed; and the following day (2nd February) briefly in the late evening when Little (or Dusky) Shearwaters were active. A few hundred gulls of three species were noisily attendant as our ship awaited entry into Las Palmas harbour. Gulls which followed after Las Palmas, though seasonal, are regarded as commonplace. Observations were rarely made between 1400 and 1630 hours:

seafowl are active in the early morning, up to about 0900 or 1000, but more so in the evening from about 1630 to dusk.

Blank days without seafowl were:—26th January ($18^{\circ} 46' \text{ S.} : 05^{\circ} 30' \text{ E.}$); 28th January ($07^{\circ} 29' \text{ S.} : 03^{\circ} 24' \text{ W.}$), 29th January ($01^{\circ} 46' \text{ S.} : 07^{\circ} 32' \text{ W.}$), 30th January ($03^{\circ} 50' \text{ N.} : 11^{\circ} 51' \text{ W.}$) and 5th February ($39^{\circ} 54' \text{ N.} : 10^{\circ} 52' \text{ W.}$), when approaching Bay of Biscay.

Almost blank days were:—27th January ($13^{\circ} 05' \text{ S.} : 01^{\circ} 00' \text{ E.}$) one Madeiran Petrel and 4th February ($33^{\circ} 28' \text{ N.} : 13^{\circ} 20' \text{ W.}$), two Herring Gulls.

Out of 15 days five were blank and two almost blank.

Unless otherwise stated the ship's recorded position is at noon.

CAPETOWN HARBOUR. Initially, Capetown harbour from 1100 on 22nd January till dusk on 23rd January provided some items of interest.

CAPE CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax capensis*. A few only in the harbour, active in p.m., from about 1630 onwards.

BLACK-BACKED GULL, *Larus dominicanus*. Plenty, mainly adult, but a few immature. Pleasant to hear occasional "mewing" instead of the more usual raucous cries.

HARTLAUB'S GULL, *Larus hartlaubii*. Abundant, and dozens to hundreds variously feeding in the harbour; some in constant flight near ship, looking for scraps up to 2200 hrs., when observations ceased (dark c. 2030). Mainly adult though some immature. About 1030 on 23rd January massed thousands, presumably fishing, observed distantly outside main breakwater.

DAMARA TERN, *Sterna balaenarum*. All in non-breeding plumage. Only one observed on 22nd January, in p.m., actively fishing from about 1630 onwards: it was attracted to refuse from vessels at dockside on which small fish were feeding. On 23rd January several active between 1630 and 1900 hrs., one caught five fish in seven dives: and a few also fishing between 1400 and 1630. In the late afternoon one of these terns accompanied a feeding Cape Cormorant, whose underwater movements it could closely follow while hovering above and frequently caught fish disturbed by the diver: in fact more than once this tern's final plunge coincided with the surfacing cormorant. Later another and extremely noisy tern arrived also to accompany the cormorant.

The list which follows is in the order in which the birds were seen first.

WANDERING ALBATROSS, *Diomedea exulans*. On 24th January, the day after leaving Capetown (at 1915 on 23rd January), two subadult, which were readily distinguishable, were with us all day. About 0930 one settled in wake to investigate the ship's refuse which was also being examined by a Cape Hen and the other flew off south westerly at 1045 and did not return till 1330. A third subadult joined the other two at 1700 but soon disappeared. None remained after 1730. On 25th January one of the previous day's birds followed for a couple of hours onwards from 1040 and then disappeared; it settled on the water at 1215 but was airborne again a quarter of an hour later.

CAPE HEN, *Procellaria aequinoctialis*. At 0900 on 24th January about six following and settling in wake to examine refuse. Soon after 1030 one only observed and by 1035 this too had disappeared.

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS, *Diomedea melanophris*. At 1040 on 24th January two adult and one subadult passed close flying southerly.

WHALE BIRD, *Pachyptila* sp. Between 0900 and 0930 on 24th January about six seen distantly following and flying over wake.

GREAT GREY SHEARWATER, *Adamastor cinereus*. On 24th January, between 1650 and 1735, a total of at least ten moving southerly, some very close.

GREAT SHEARWATER, *Puffinus gravis*. Between 1650 and 1735 on 24th January a total of at least six moving southerly, a few very close.

SILVER-GREY FULMAR, *Fulmarus glacialisoides*. At 1710 on 24th January one passed very close flying northerly.

SCHLEGEL'S PETREL, *Pterodroma incerta*. Between 1715 and 1820 on 24th January a total of five very close moving southerly.

GREAT-WINGED PETREL, *Pterodroma macroptera*. On 24th January between 1745 and 1820 a total of four all very close moving southerly.

SOOTY TERN, *Sterna fuscata*. On 24th January at 1840 one flew across ship about foremast high.

ANTARCTIC SKUA, *Catharacta skua antarctica*. I had expected to see these "Robber" gulls either in a.m. or evening of 24th January, but none appeared.

WILSON'S PETREL, *Oceanites oceanicus*. On 25th January (24° 30' S.: 10° 09' E.), between 0815 and 0900 three were following, but only one seen at 1110: at 1215 six were following, but none seen again.

PETREL sp., perhaps MADEIRAN PETREL, *Oceanodroma castro*. On 27th January (13° 05' S.: 01° 00' E.) at 1407 one flying north-westerly faster than ship: black, with white rump.

CORY'S (OR MEDITERRANEAN) SHEARWATER, *Calonectris diomedea borealis*. On 31st January (09° 19' N.: 16° 05' W.), from 1415 to 1745 a total of at least two dozen observed slowly moving northerly, presumed adult (none seen when outward bound at beginning of May). Moderate sea, with fresh head wind. Large birds, flapping slowly and gliding, sometimes high above the water; moving about same rate, perhaps slightly slower than ship. Some very close.

GREAT SKUA, *Catharacta skua skua*. On 31st January one followed briefly between 1500 to 1507 then settled in the wake to investigate refuse and was not seen again. Next day, 1st February (passing Dakar at 0920), one following at 0815 and a different bird following briefly at 0900.

POMARINE SKUA, *Stercorarius pomarinus*. On 31st January one flying intermittently around ship from 1715 to 1810, when observations ceased. On 1st February when off Dakar one intermittently circling ship from 0920 to 0930 and observed closely.

ARCTIC SKUA, *Stercorarius parasiticus*. At 0930 on 1st February one following for a short while and accompanying a Pomarine Skua, compared with which it was markedly smaller (doubtfully it might have been an immature LONG-TAILED SKUA, *Stercorarius longicaudus*).

DUSKY (OR LITTLE) SHEARWATER, *Puffinus assimilis*. On 2nd February (precise locality approx. 23° 30' N.: 17° 40' W.), a total of ten seen between 1750 and 1756, presumed adult and mostly very close;

moving as fast as ship but no definite direction; flapping flight with little gliding (none seen outward bound at beginning of May).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, *Larus fuscus*. On 3rd February arrived Las Palmas at noon: by 0900 some two dozen following and intermittently settling in wake to feed on refuse: numbers gradually building up to well over 150 at 1105 when awaiting entry into port—a noisy flock squabbling over refuse with Yellow-legged Herring Gulls and Black-headed Gulls. Mainly adult, with a small proportion of 1966 juveniles and some others to be adult in 1967. Not many in the harbour. Up to four dozen followed after leaving port at 1600 hours and some still following at dusk (1900 hours).

BLACK-HEADED GULL, *Larus ridibundus*. On 3rd February at least three dozen feeding astern with two other gull species while waiting to enter port; a few in the harbour. All in winter plumage; mainly juveniles. None followed out of port.

YELLOW-LEGGED HERRING GULL, *Larus cachinnans*. On 3rd February at least two dozen closely either when in Las Palmas harbour or waiting to enter. The least common of the three gulls seen; mainly adult, with a few 1966 juveniles. None followed.

HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus*. None identified at Las Palmas. On 4th February (noon latitude approx. that of Madeira) none up to 1400 hrs., but when observations resumed at 1630 one adult and very dark plumaged 1966 juvenile following for about an hour towards dusk; juvenile seemed to tire easily and eventually settled on water and disappeared, the adult remaining till nearly dusk. On 6th February (45° 58' N.: 07° 25' W.), three to four dozen following all day (first observation at 0830), all adult; at noon halfway across Bay of Biscay, by 1730 only about one dozen left. On 7th February, in English Channel, at least two dozen following at 0830 calling loudly and 'mewing', all adult; by 0900 off Isle of Wight had increased to over four dozen including a few immature; at 1350 over a dozen, but all had left by dusk.

Further breeding records from Zambia (No. 6)

by R. K. BROOKE

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The earlier papers in this series have been written by C. W. Benson and C. R. S. Pitman (see reference in Benson and Pitman 1966). F. J. Ashton of Ndola has recently submitted a large number of nest record cards: of these the following are of outstanding interest for the reasons indicated under each heading. I am obliged to C. W. Benson for criticizing a draft of this paper.

Butorides rufiventris (Sundevall)

Rufous-bellied Heron

A colony of some 80–90 nests containing eggs was found in a reed bed in standing water on 19th March 1964. This was on a farm some 12 miles from Broken Hill, an area from which this species has not previously been recorded breeding (Uys and Clutton-Brock 1966).

Turtur afer (L.)

Blue-spotted Wood-dove

C/2 14ft. up in an Avocado tree in a farm garden near Ndola on 14th November 1963. This is the second record for Zambia (Benson and White 1957).